

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 01413 190936Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----190938Z 081655 /10
O 190400Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3513

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1413

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FOR S/NM MS. FALCO ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJ: TIN OO WANTS ASSURANCES ABOUT AIRCRAFT

1. COL TIN OO HAS ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM MONDAY MORNING. WE HAVE HAD SOME SIGNS GUB LEADERS, FOR SOME REASON, MAY FEEL THE NEED OF REASSURANCE ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS UNDER NARCONTROL PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY, FOR INSTANCE, DO WE REALLY INTEND TO TRY OUR BEST, SUBJECT ONLY TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, TO GET THEM THE FIXED WING AIRCRAFT THEY WANT? AND WHAT ARE CHANCES CONGRESS WILL APPROVE ALL OR MOST OF THE REQUESTS?

2. I CAN OF COURSE FIELD TIN OO'S QUESTIONS WITH EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE IN YOU AND YOUR FIRM SUPPORT WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION, YOUR SINCERE DESIRE TO ADVANCE PROGRAM GOALS, YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF ROLE OF FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, ETC, ETC. THAT WOULD PROBABLY MEET MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF INTERVIEW WITH TIN OO.

3. UNLESS YOU OBJECT, I WILL ALSO TELL TIN OO THAT YOU HOPE YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BURMESE DELEGATION IN JUNE WILL
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GIVE YOU A MORE SPECIFIC IDEA OF COST AND AVAILABILITY OF THE PLANES THEY NEED MOST, AND THAT ONLY ON THAT BASIS, PLUS YOUR ESTIMATE OF OVERALL BUDGETARY STRINGENCIES AND THE TEMPER OF CONGRESS AS THE NEW FISCAL YEAR DRAWS NEAR, CAN YOU GET A BETTER IDEA OF HOW MANY PLANES AND HOW DELIVERIES MIGHT HAVE TO BE SPACED. I WOULD ADD, AS MY OWN IMPRESSION, THAT THE ACQUISITION OF ALL NINE PLANES OF AN IDEAL TYPE IS

MOST UNLIKELY, AT LEAST THROUGH THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

4. OTHER THAN THAT, I WILL TRY TO SMOKE OUT THE REASONS
(IF ANY) FOR THEIR APPARENT UNEASINESS, AND SEE WHAT ELSE IS
ON HIS MIND.

5. BUT IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE PRECISE AND CONCRETE I
CAN TELL TIN OO ABOUT THE OUTLOOK FOR THE PROGRAM, CON-
GRESSIONAL CLIMATE, ETC, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. THEY ARE
DISCREET, THEY ARE VERY BIG ON MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE,
AND, PARTICULARLY IF THE OUTLOOK IS BAD, THE SOONER WE
CAN TELL THEM THE BETTER. OSBORN UNQTE.

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Message Attributes

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